

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A01K29/00 A01K15/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 A01K G06F G10L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 818 354 A (GENTRY TIMOTHY G) 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) abstract ---	1,2,4,7, 8
Y	GB 2 350 263 A (LEIGHTON BERNARD) 22 November 2000 (2000-11-22) abstract; claims 1,4,5; figure page 2, line 3 - line 20 ---	1,2,4,7, 8
Y	EP 0 730 261 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 4 September 1996 (1996-09-04) abstract; figures 1,4,6 page 9, column 15, line 47 -page 10, column 17, line 5 page 11, column 19, line 21 - line 35 --- -/--	1,2,4,7, 8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 May 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/06/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Wanzeele, R

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 749 324 A (MOORE STEVEN JEROME) 12 May 1998 (1998-05-12) column 5, line 54 -column 7, line 30 abstract; figures 1,2 ----	2,4
Y	US 6 254 536 B1 (DEVITO DREW) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03) abstract ----	8
A	WO 02 15678 A (TEMCO JAPAN ;TAKEDA TAKESHI (JP)) 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) abstract ----	1
A	EP 0 813 186 A (YAMAMOTO MASAOMI) 17 December 1997 (1997-12-17) the whole document ----	1
A	US 4 967 696 A (TOBIAS SAMUEL) 6 November 1990 (1990-11-06) abstract -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IT 02/00183

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5818354	A	06-10-1998	NONE	
GB 2350263	A	22-11-2000	NONE	
EP 0730261	A	04-09-1996	JP 3254994 B2	12-02-2002
			JP 8297498 A	12-11-1996
			CN 1142647 A	12-02-1997
			DE 69618488 D1	21-02-2002
			EP 0730261 A2	04-09-1996
			US 5802488 A	01-09-1998
US 5749324	A	12-05-1998	NONE	
US 6254536	B1	03-07-2001	US 6001065 A	14-12-1999
			US 2001056225 A1	27-12-2001
WO 0215678	A	28-02-2002	JP 2002058376 A	26-02-2002
			WO 0215678 A1	28-02-2002
EP 0813186	A	17-12-1997	JP 10003479 A	06-01-1998
			EP 0813186 A2	17-12-1997
			US 5790033 A	04-08-1998
US 4967696	A	06-11-1990	NONE	